

In the claims:

Claims 1-72 (cancelled)

73. (new) A method for forming a packaging system and for subsequently forming a structural unit from components of the packaging system, the method comprising:

forming a packaging unit by removably mating each of a plurality of three-dimensional elements with respective portions of a product, each of the three-dimensional elements having a cavity that removably mates with a respective portion of the product so that that plurality of three-dimensional objects reside in a first configuration;

placing the packaging unit into a shipping container to form the packaging system;

shipping the packaging system;

removing the packaging unit from the shipping container;

removing the plurality of three-dimensional elements from their respective portions of the product; and

interlocking the plurality of three-dimensional elements using interlocking structure formed on the plurality of three-dimensional elements to form the structural unit with the plurality of three-dimensional objects residing in a second configuration that differs from the first configuration.

74. (new) The method of claim 73, wherein:

the plurality of three-dimensional elements comprise eight three-dimensional elements;

the packaging unit includes eight corners; and

forming the packaging unit includes removably mating each of the eight three-dimensional elements with eight corresponding corners of the product.

75. (new) The method of claim 73, wherein:

the plurality of three-dimensional elements comprise two three-dimensional elements;
and

each of the two three-dimensional elements corresponds to a respective half of the packaging unit.

76. (new) The method of claim 75, wherein forming the packaging unit includes removably mating each of the two three-dimensional elements with respective sides of the product.

77. (new) The method of claim 73:

wherein the interlocking structure comprises a tongue and groove structure formed in surfaces of the three-dimensional element; and

wherein the interlocking structure of one three-dimensional element exactly meeting the interlocking structure of another of the three-dimensional elements.

78. (new) The method of claim 73, wherein the plurality of three-dimensional elements are foam structures.

79. (new) The method of claim 73, further comprising using the structural unit in the construction of a building.

80. (new) The method of claim 73, further comprising using the structural unit as a flotation product.

81. (new) The method of claim 73, further comprising using the structural unit to create a portion of a wall form for pourable building material.

82. (new) The method of claim 73, further comprising coupling together the plurality of three-dimensional elements using a connector that fits through a connector opening formed in the plurality of three-dimensional elements.

83. (new) A packaging system comprising:

a product;

a plurality of three-dimensional elements;

at least one product receiving cavity formed in each of the plurality of three-dimensional elements, each product receiving cavity receiving a respective portion of the product when the plurality of three-dimensional elements are removably mated to the product in a shipping configuration in which the product and the plurality of three-dimensional elements form a packaging unit;

a container in which the packaging unit resides; and

interlocking structure formed on each of the plurality of three-dimensional elements, wherein the interlocking structure of each three-dimensional element is formed to exactly meet the interlocking structure of at least one other three-dimensional element of the plurality of three-dimensional elements to facilitate construction of a structural unit from the plurality of three-dimensional elements.

84. (new) The packaging system of claim 83, wherein:

the plurality of three-dimensional elements comprise eight three-dimensional elements;

the packaging unit includes eight corners; and

each of the eight three-dimensional elements corresponds to a respective corner of the six corners.

85. (new) The packaging system of claim 83, wherein:
the plurality of three-dimensional elements comprise two three-dimensional elements;
and
each of the two three-dimensional elements corresponds to a respective half of the
packaging unit.
86. (new) The packaging system of claim 83, wherein each of the two three-dimensional
elements further comprises a cavity that removably mates with a respective side of the product in
the shipping configuration.
87. (new) The packaging system of claim 83, wherein the interlocking portion comprises a
tongue and groove structure formed in a surface of the three-dimensional element.
88. (new) The packaging system of claim 83, wherein the plurality of three-dimensional
elements are foam structures.
89. (new) The packaging system of claim 83, wherein the structural unit comprises a
construction product.
90. (new) The packaging system of claim 83, wherein the structural unit comprises a
flotation product.

91. (new) The packaging system of claim 83, wherein each of the plurality of three-dimensional elements further comprises a connector opening adapted to receive a connector for joining the plurality of three-dimensional elements as the structural unit.

92. (new) A packaging system comprising:

a product having eight corners;

eight three-dimensional elements;

at least one product receiving cavity formed in each of the eight three-dimensional elements, each product receiving cavity receiving a respective corner of the product when the eight three-dimensional elements are removably mated to the product in a shipping configuration in which the product and the plurality of three-dimensional elements form a packaging unit;

a container in which the packaging unit resides; and

interlocking structure formed on each of the eight three-dimensional elements, wherein the interlocking structure of each three-dimensional element is formed to exactly meet the interlocking structure of at least one other three-dimensional element of the eight three-dimensional elements to facilitate construction of a structural unit from the eight three-dimensional elements.